HOLYWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

1953.

Holywell Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health,
Dr. D. J. Fraser,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Town Hall,
Holywell

To the Chairman and Members of the Holywell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have thehonour to present my Annual Report for the year ended December, 31st 1953.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year was 8,150. The population at the Census (1951) was given as 8,196.

The Birth Rate shows a slight rise. The number of live-births was 159 compared with 145 in 1952. There were nine illegitimate births, compared with 3 in 1952.

The Still Birth rate fell slightly. The actual number of still births was 4, as in 1952.

The Death Rate showed a fall, while the rate for England and Wales rose slightly. The total of deaths was 90 compared with 100 in 1952. With the ever increasing number of elderly persons in the population, a rise in the death rate must be expected in the future. Approximately 11 per cent of the population is 65 years old or more.

There was a rise in the Infantile Death Rate from 20.68 per 1,000 live births to 44.02. Seven infants under a year old died compared with three in 1952. Four of those seven were under a month old.

There was one death associated with pregnancy or childbirth.

The analysis of the causes of death amongst the population as a whole shows that diseases of the heart and circulatory system, were the largest cause, accounting for 43% of the deaths. The number of deaths from cancer in one form or another was 10 compared with 24 in 1952. There were no deaths from notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis). Two deaths from Influenza were reported, and three from Tuberculosis.

It will be seen from the reports upon samples, that the quality of the water supply is satisfactory, although the quantity is at the moment inadequate.

The total number of cases of diseases notified fell from 145 in 1952 to 81 in 1953, the main cause of the disease being due to a fall in the incidence of measles in children.

There were eighteen new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year. There is no doubt that unsuspected cases of tuberculosis are at large amongst the population. Modern methods of diagnosis, and close co-operation between the various authorities responsible for the health of the population bring many of the unsuspected cases to light.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council as a whole, and your Officers, for their assistance which has been so readily given to me.

I remain, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

D. J. FRASE,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT 1953.

SECTION A.
Social Conditions including chief industries.

There has been no change in conditions during the year. Employment within the Urban District is provided mainly in paper works, woollen and other textile works and in artificial silk works. Many residents work in neighbouring districts at a steel works, an iron foundry, quarrying, and at coal mining.

Area in acres - 2,428 - Statutory acres.

Population - Census 1951 - 8,196.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) Mid-Year 1953 - 8,150.
Mid-Year 1952 - 8,159
Mid-Year 1951 - 8,162.

Number of inhabited houses - 2,273.
Rateable Value. - £48,446
Product of a Penny Rate. £190. 17. 6.

Vital Statistics.

These are presented in tabular form. For purposes of comparison figures for last year are given, and where appropriate the rates for England and Wales as a whole are also given.

TABLE 1. Births.

Live-Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	72	78	150
Illegitimate.	8	1	9
TOTAL.	80	79	159.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population.
1953 - 18.01.
1952 - 17.77

England and Wales. Live Birth rate per 1,000 population.
1953 (Provisional) - 15.5
1952 ---------- 15.3

The birth rate rose slightly and it is above the rate for England and Wales. 159 live births occurred compared with 145 in 1952. There were 9 illegitimate births, compared with 3 in 1952.

TABLE 11. Still Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	2	2	4
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
TOTAL.	2	2	4

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Still-birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births.

1953 - 24.53.
1952 - 26.84

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 population.

1953 - 0.49
1952 - 0.49

England and Wales. Still-birth rate per 1,000 population.

1953 - 0.35
1952 - 0.35

There has thus been no change in the still-birth rate for the Holywell Urban area. The actual number of still-births was four, compared with four in 1952.

Table 111. Deaths (General) Rate.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
All ages (all causes)	44	46	90

Death Rate per 1,000 population.

1953 - 11.04
1952 - 12.25

England and Wales. Death Rate per 1,000 population.

1953 - 11.4
1952 - 11.3

The crude death rate has fallen slightly and it is slightly lower than the rate for England and Wales. The Registrar General's "Comparability Factor" being 1.00, the corrected death rate is 11.04. There were 90 deaths compared with 100 in 1952.

TABLE 1V. Deaths (General) Analysis.

See next page.

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Population.
Tuberculosis respiratory.	-	3	3	0.36
Hypertrophy Prostate.	4	-	4	0.49
Malignant Neoplasm stomach	-	1	1	0.12
" "lung-bronchus	2	-	2	0.24
" "breast.	-	2	2	0.24
" "uterus.	-	2	2	0.24
Other Malignant and lymphatic. neoplasms.	1	2	3	0.36
Influenza.	2	-	2	0.24
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	6	10	1.22
Coronary diseases, angina	8	4	12	1.47
Other heart diseases.	5	10	15	1.84
Other circulatory disease.	-	2	2	0.24
Congenital Malformations.	1	1	2	0.24
Bronchitis.	6	-	6	0.72
Ulcer stomach and duodenum.	1	-	1	0.12
Pregnancy, Childbirth Abortion.	-	1	1	0.12
Nephritis & nephrosis.	2	-	2	0.24
Other defined & ill-defined diseases.	7	10	17	2.08
Accidents motor:-	-	1	1	0.12
other:-	1	1	2	0.24
TOTAL.	44	46	90	

It will be seen from this table that 39 deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system; 10 deaths were due to cancer in one form or another compared with 24 in 1952. There were 3 deaths from Tuberculosis, compared with 1 in 1952. There were no deaths from Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Meningitis, Poliomyelitis or Measles.

TABLE V. Deaths (associated with Pregnancy and childbirth).

There was one death from those causes, giving a Maternal Death Rate of 6.13 per 1,000 live and still-births.

TABLE VI. Deaths (Infantile) i.e. infants under one year old.

	Male.	Female.	Totals.
Legitimate.	2	5	7
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
TOTALS.	2	5	7

Infantile death-rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births.

1953 - 46.66
1952 - 21.12
1951 - 33.48

Infantile death-rate of illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births.

1953 - nil.
1952 - nil.
1951 - nil.

Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 live-births (legitimate and illegitimate).

1953 - 44.02
1952 - 20.68
1951 - 32.25
1950 - 48.27

England and Wales. Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 live-births.

1953 (Provisional) - 26.8

It is shown that 7 infants under a year old died compared with 3 in 1952. Four of those were under a month old.

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

OFFICERS. Medical Officer of Health: D.J.Fraser, M.B.Ch.B. D.P.H.,

Sanitary Inspector. J.Farrell M.S.I.A. (to 31.10.53). G.A.Wynne, M.S.I.A., (from 1.12.53.)

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratories at Conway and Birkenhead. The Public Analyst, Chester.

Ambulance Service provided by the County Council. An ambulance is stationed in Holywell on a 24 hour service. Sitting case transport is provided by arrangement with the County Welfare Department.

Other services provided by the County Council are:-

Home Help.
Home nursing.
Domiciliary midwifery.
Health visiting.
Diphtheria Immunisation.
Tuberculosis health visiting and after-care.
Mental Health visiting.
Prevention of Illness, Care, and after-care.
Antenatal clinics.
School clinics and examination of school children.
Infant welfare clinics.
Vaccination (by arrangement) by local medical practitioners.

Provided by the Regional Hospital Board are:-

Hospital and out-patients clinic facilities.
Tuberculosis clinics and sanatorium Accommodation
Mental Hospital Facilities.

Treatment Clinics.	Situation.	Date and times of opening.
Tuberculosis.	Cottage Hospital.	Tuesdays 10.30 a.m.
School clinic.	The Clinic, Holywell.	Fridays 9.30 a.m.
Antenatal Clinic.	The Clinic, Holywell.	2nd & 4th Thursday of each month. 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon.
Infant Welfare Clinic.	The Clinic, Holywell.	Thursdays 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Infant Welfare Clinic.	Church Hall, Greenfield.	Tuesdays 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic.	Cottage Hospital, Holywell.	2nd & 4th Fridays. 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

Treatment Clinics.	Situation.	Date and times of opening.
Diphtheria Immunisation.	The Clinic, Holywell.	Once monthly. 1st Thursday 10 a.m.
Ophthalmic Clinic.	The Clinic, Holywell.	2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 9.30 a.m.

Hospitals.

The provision of all types of hospital accommodation is the responsibility of the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee. There are two general hospitals within the Urban Area. "Part III Accommodation" is provided at Llucsty General Hospital, and at St. Asaph.

National Assistance Act 1948. (Section 47) (removal to to some suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.) No cases were dealt with under this heading during the year.

SECTION C. WATER SUPPLY.

The arrangements made with Birkenhead Corporation to augment the Authority's insufficient water supply have proved to be reasonably satisfactory. The problem of water supply is one which is troubling most local authorities in North Wales. It is to be hoped that more water, will be available from the Birkenhead Corporation's supply, when that authority will have completed its scheme for extraction of water from the River Dee.

Joint Scheme.

There do not appear to be any gross leaks in the water mains but considerable wastage of water occurs from defective water taps and water closet cisterns. In times of shortage householders are apt to draw water at night for use next day, in case the water is cut off. This water is usually wasted. It is difficult to persuade people that it is possible that in drought, there may be no water at all. To appreciate the value of a good water supply, it is necessary to have lived in hot climates, or to have served with a desert army, when the daily allowance, for all purposes often was two pints.

The Joint Water Scheme, brought about in close co-operation with Holywell Rural District Council should do much to alleviate periodical shortages in different parts of the town, but it will have to be remembered that the suppliers, Birkenhead Corporation have little water to spare.

Figures for water consumption in the distrct are as follows:-

1952 - 73,218,000 gallons.
1953 - 73,968,000 gallons.

24 samples were taken during the year in the Urban area. Of those all were Class 1 (highly satisfactory).

Chemical analysis of water is done by the supplying authority.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from water mains direct to the houses is 1,976 approximately; by stand-pipes 210 approximately: springs and other sources 7 approximately.

Refuse Disposal. is carried out by direct labour, and there is a weekly collection from every house in the area. Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping. Some nuisance has been caused by unauthorised tipping of animal and vegitable refuse. Strict supervision of tipping is necessary, or the tip gets out of control, and much expense may be caused in having to hire machinery to get the tip into order.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. TABLE V11.

Particulars of Notices and Inspections during the year ended 31st December, 1953 (required by Statute to be included in the Medical Officer's Report).

TABLE V11. Number of visits made in connection with Public Health matters:-

Number.	Nature.
216	Visits re complaints of sanitary defects.
830	Inspections of dwelling houses.
117	Shops and food stores.
130	Slaughterhouse.
19	Re refuse collection and disposal.
35	Re Infectious diseases and disinfection.
54	Factories Act.
70	Interviews with owners of agents.
11	Dirty or verminous premises.
15	Bakehouses.
12	Sewage works.
4	Dairies.
59	Sampling.
52	Inspection under Building Byelaws.
25	Shops Act.
6	Licenced Premises.

TABLE V111. No. of notices served.

Informal.	Formal.	Nature of notices.	Result.
67	6	nuisances.	abated.
12	-	P.H.A.1936. S.39(cesspool).	abated.
32	-	P.H.A.1936. S.75(dustbins).	abated.

SECTION D.

Housing.

This continues to be one of the most pressing problems and it is to be hoped that the rate of house building and allocations from the Ministry will increase so that people living in poor conditions can be properly housed.

I am pleased to report that action is being taken to prevent families entering houses from which people have just been re-housed.

This method has been frequently practised in the past and the closure or demolition of the houses does prevent the constant re-housing of different people from the same house.

The time has passed when any house, in any condition, could be inhabited, and with the coming into force of new legislation, the authority will have to consider its programme regarding the replacement of the grossly substandard houses in the district. Housing surveys will have to be carried out, and details inspections made.

Number on the waiting list at the end of 1953. -350
New Council Houses built in 1953. - 44
New Private houses built in 1953. - 11.

TABLE IX.

Dwelling houses inspected for defects under the Public Health Acts - 200.
Inspections made for the purpose of the above. - 327

TABLE X. Remedy of defects without service of formal notice.

No. of defective dwelling houses in which repairs were carried out in consequence of informal action. - 114.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The quality of milk from the point of view of composition is the responsibility of the County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority. Inspections of Farms were carried out throughout the year. All samples of milk taken conformed to their respective standards. There is one premises registered as a dairy, in the district.

TABLE XI. Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excl. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	574	374	257	5200	938
Number inspected.	574	374	257	5200	938
All diseases except Tuberculosis whole carcases condemned.	-	3	7	32	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	22.82	47.86	7.39	3.80	2.75
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned.	1	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned due to Tuberculosis.	28	40	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	5.05	10.96	-	-	3.94
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	131	176	12	166	21

TABLE XII. Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks of food-poisoning in the area during the year.

ICE CREAM.

No ice cream is manufactured in the district. All ice-cream is made in factories outside the area, and sampling for composition and cleanliness is done in the areas of manufacture. All 20 premises retailing ice-cream are registered with the local authority and regular inspection is carried out. 39 samples taken for sampling regarding cleanliness were all Grade 1. "Lollie Ices" - 12 samples were all satisfactory.

Inspection and supervision of Food-Shops.

Being the market town for a large rural area, Holywell contains many food-shops. The standard of food hygiene has risen, but much remains to be done in educating those who handle food. If the public refused to buy from dirty shops the standard of hugiene would rise rapidly. Much has been done also by regular visits by the Sanitary Inspector. 117 visits were made to food shops in this connection.

Condemned Food - 1953.

Tinned Goods.

Minced Beef loaf.	18 tins.	Apple Puree.	2 tins.
Ham.	15 lbs.	Peaches.	13 "
Jellied Veal.	2 tins,	Grape Fruit.	2 "
Luncheon Meat.	6 tins.	Pears.	21 "
Stewed Steak.	8 "	Grapes.	8 "
Pork Luncheon Meat.	5 "	Evaporated Milk.	22 "
Rabbits.	3 "	Condensed Milk.	21 "
Vegetable Soup.	13 "	Damsons.	11 "
Tomatoes.	25 "	Milo.	1 tin.
Beans.	13 "	Brislings.	1 "
Spaghetti.	1 tin.	Apples.	3 tins.
Steak.	1 "	Blackcurrants.	8 "
Chutney.	8 bottles.	Bilberries.	24 "
Corned Beef.	2 tins.	Apricots.	7 "
Tomato Soup.	17 "	Prunes.	4 "
Lobster	1 tin.	Sardines.	1 tin.
Bengers Food.	1 "	Blackberries.	1 "
Health Salts.	12 tins.	Tongue.	1 "
Raspberries.	1 tin.	Lemon Cheese.	1 bottle.
Cream.	1 "	Split Peas.	21 lbs.
Mustard.	5 tins.	Creamola.	7 packets.
Cocoa	7 "	Ground Almonds.	9 lbs.
Peas.	27 "	Orange Squash.	1 bottle.
Fruit Salad.	3 "	Rusks.	1 packet.
Strawberries.	34 "	Coconut Ice.	12 lbs.
Plums.	37 "	Oats.	7 lbs.
Pineapple.	9 "	Dried Fruit.	7 lbs.
Cherries.	8 "	Flaked Rice.	24 lbs.

Factories 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	M/c Line. No.2	No. on Register. (3)	Number of Inspections. (4)	Written notices. (5)	Occupier Prosecuted. (6)	M/c line. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	1	5	12	-	-	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	28	42	-	-	
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises.	3	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL.		33	54	-	-	

(2) Cases in which defects were found.

	M/C line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found. Found.	Remedied.	To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
Want of Cleanliness. S.1.	4	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding S.2	5	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature S.3.	6	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation S.4.	7	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors. S.6.	8	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences. S.7 (a) insufficient.	9	1	1	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective.	10	4	4	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes.	11	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	12	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.		11	11	-	-	-

Factories Act, 1937. Part VIII. (Sections 110,111).

Outworkers:- There are no records of any out workers in the Holywell Urban Area.

SECTION F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other notifiable diseases.

DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED.	DEATHS.
Scarlet Fever.	8	0
Whooping Cough.	38	0
Measles.	10	0
Acute Pneumonia.	23	0
Erysipelas.	1	0
Poliomyelitis.	1	0
TOTAL.	81	0

Analysis of Infectious and Other notifiable Diseases.

Diseases 1953.

DISEASE.	No. of cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.							
	at all ages.	under 5 yrs.	5-14.	15-44	45-64	65 & over.	Age unknown.	1952 figures
Poliomyelitis.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	8	4	4	-	-	-	-	2
Measles.	10	6	4	-	-	-	-	68
Wh. Cough.	38	31	7	-	-	-	-	29
Acute Pneumonia.	23	7	3	2	4	7	-	40
Erysipelas.	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
TOTAL.	81	49	18	3	4	7	-	141

Eight cases of scarlet fever were notified. Whooping Cough cases numbered 38 compared with 29 in the previous year. The incidence of measles was less heavy with 10 notifications, compared with 68 in 1952.

There were 23 cases of acute pneumonia notified (compared with 40 in 1952) The very young and the elderly were most affected. There were no deaths from pneumonia. There were no cases of Diphtheria, no outbreaks of food-poisoning. The case of Poliomyelitis occurred in a little boy. The complaint may have been contracted during a visit to Rhyl. The case was a paralytic one, the legs being affected. There were no other cases in the area.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified in 1953.

There were 18 new cases notified during the year, 17 pulmonary, 1 non pulmonary. The cases are analysed in their age groups thus:-

Ages.	Males	Females	Totals.
0 - 4 years.	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	1	-	1
10 - 14 "	-	1	1
15 - 19 "	-	-	-
20 - 24 "	2	2	4
25 - 34 "	-	1	1
35 - 44 "	-	1	1
45 - 54 "	2	1	3
55 - 64 "	5	-	5
65 and over.	1	1	2
TOTAL.	11	7	18

There were three deaths all females from pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year compared with one death in 1952. There were no deaths from non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. The continued incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis does not necessarily mean that the complaint is more prevalent than before. It results from the vigilance of the general practitioners, and the co-operation between them and the Chest Clinics. Many of the cases were mild ones which might easily have escaped notice. The Chest Clinics are fully used. Regarding Mass X-Rays of the population at large, at present the Mass Radiography Unit visits the District about every eighteen months. It is likely that the visit will in future be an annual one. Of the 18 new cases, 2 were transfers from other areas, and 2 were re-notifications of old cases. During the year, 8 cases were removed from the register, being quiescent or recovered.